

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCEM-02 INT-08

SS-20 NSC-10 SCI-06 L-03 PRS-01 H-03 DRC-01 /186 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1167

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJ: SUMMARY REPORT HL GROUP OIL MEETING

DELIVER UNDERSECRETARY CASEY AT OB NOV 20

FROM ARSTRONG

1. HIGH LEVEL OIL GROUP MET NOVEMBER 19. REVIEW OF OIL SITUATION REVEALED NOTHING NEW IN FACTUAL SENSE, ALTHOUGH EACH DELEGATION REVIEWED SITUATION ITS COUNTRY. EFFORT OF CHAIRMAN TO OBTAIN INFORMATION INFORMALLY FROM COMPANIES, DURING NOVEMBER, YIELDED UNIMPRESSIVE RESULT. EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF WHETHER TO ACTIVATE IIAB FOLLOWED, WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESULT THAT POLITICAL OBJECTIONS, EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT,

FROM FRENCH, ITALIANS, AND BRITISH BLOCKED DUTCH DRIVE FOR ACTION, DESPITE OBVIOUS DETERIORATION OF SITUATION SINCE LAST MEETING AND DIM PROSPECTS OF NEAR-TERM FUTURE. CHAIRMAN WILL THEREFORE TRY AGAIN WITH COMPANIES. WE INVITED CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARIAT REP TO MEET WITH STAFF EMERGENCY PETROLEUM SUPPLY COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN NEW YORK IN EARLY DECEMBER AT DATE TO BE ARRANGED, SO AS TO FACILITATE DATA-GATHERING.

2. SECOND SUBJECT WAS REPORT ON OECD-WIDE APPORTIONMENT, WHICH CHAIRMAN VAN RHIJN PRESENTED TO GROUP WITH HIGH COMPLIMANTS FOR ROBERT EBEL'S (US DEPT OF INTERIOR) FINE WORK AS RAPPORTEUR. REPORT WILL BE CIRCULATED TO OIL COMMITTEE AFTER EDITING OF FRENCH VERSION.

3. NEXT MEETING OF HIGH LEVE GROUP WILL BE HELD DEC. 19 FOLLOWING EUROPEAN SUMMIT ON DEC. 17. IMPLICATION THAT SUMMIT MIGHT ALTER EUROPEAN POLITICAL VIEWS, AND HENCE DETERMINATION TO ACT, LED US TO ACCEPT THIS DATE.

4. COMMENT: POLITICAL FACTORS VIS-A-VIS ARABS STILL GOVERN FRENCH, ITALIANS, AND BRITSH REACTIONS, AND DUTCH ARE CHIEF EUROPEAN COMPLAINERS. JAPANESE MOURNED THEIR SITUATION IN SOLITUDE. WE DESCRIBED OUR DOMESTIC PROGRAM, AND OFFERED FULL STATISTICAL AND INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL AND COOPERATION. MEETING CLEARLY REVEALED NATURE OF ENERGY PROBLEM, INDICAED NEED FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION, AND DEMONSTRATED A TOTAL LACK OF WILLINGNESS ON PART OF LEADING EUROPEANS TO DO ANYTHING AT THIS TIME COOPERATIVELY IN AN OFFICIAL WAY ABOUT IT.
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